

IRISH POOR-LAW MEDICAL OFFICERS.

MR. ERNEST HART has forwarded the following letter for publication:

Irish Medical Association,
Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin.
December 15th, 1897.
(To Ernest Hart, Esq.)

DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in sending you the following copy of a resolution unanimously passed by the Council of this Association at its meeting yesterday:

Resolved—That the Council of the Irish Medical Association desire to tender to Mr. Ernest Hart their sincere congratulations upon his recovery from his recent illness, and avail themselves of the opportunity to thank him most heartily on behalf of the Poor-law Medical Officers of Ireland for the assistance which the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL has given their efforts to obtain redress of the grievances of which they complain, and also for his able advocacy of the cause of Irish workhouse reform.

I am, yours faithfully,
THOMAS GICK,
Secretary.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

COUNCIL.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A MEETING of the Council will be held in the Council Room of the Association, at No. 429, Strand (corner of Agar Street), London, on Wednesday the 19th day of January next, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

December, 1897.

NOTICE OF QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL FOR 1898.

MEETINGS of the Council will be held on January 19th, April 13th, July 6th, and October 19th, 1898. Candidates for election by the Council of the Association must send in their forms of application to the General Secretary not later than twenty-one days before each meeting—namely, December 29th, 1897; March 24th, June 16th, and September 29th, 1898.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

Candidates seeking election by a Branch Council should apply to the Secretary of the Branch. No members can be elected by a Branch Council unless their names have been inserted in the circular summoning the meeting at which they seek election.

FRANCIS FOWKE, *General Secretary*.

BRANCH MEETINGS TO BE HELD.

EDINBURGH (LOTHIANS AND FIFE) BRANCH.—A meeting of this Branch will be held within the Royal College of Physicians, 9, Queen Street, Edinburgh, on Friday, January 14th, 1898, at 4 P.M. Agenda: Proposed revision of Constitution of Association, etc. Notice of business and applications for membership should be addressed, not later than January 6th, to Dr. R. W. PHILIP, Honorary Secretary, 4, Melville Crescent, Edinburgh.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

PARIS.

Reading through Opaque Bodies.—Bone-grafting from the Dog.—The Medical Staff of the Paris Hospitals.—General News.

M. GRASSET, the distinguished physician of the Montpellier Faculty, publishes the following case: Dr. Ferroul, of Narbonne, mentioned to Dr. Grasset a young woman capable of reading through opaque bodies. Dr. Grasset wrote the following words on a half-sheet of paper: "Le ciel profond reflète en étoiles nos larmes; car nous pleurons, ce soir, de nous sentir trop vivre," then a Russian word, a German word, and a Greek word. This paper, folded with the writing inside, was wrapped in tinfoil, the edges folded over, and placed in a black-edged envelope, which was well gummed down. Dr. Grasset had been warned that string rendered the reading more difficult; he fastened the envelope with a safety pin, and covered it with sealing wax. This envelope with Dr. Grasset's card was put in another envelope addressed to

Dr. Ferroul. Dr. Ferroul wrote to Dr. Grasset as follows: "When your letter reached me the person was not at hand; I called and told her to come; she said she would read at once what you had written. Your letter sealed with black sealing wax was on my library table. My house is 300 yards' distance from hers. We were both leaning against a table. I passed my hand across the subject's eyes, and she gave me the following information: 'You have torn the envelope.' 'Yes, but the letter you have to read is in another envelope.' She continued, 'The one with the big black seal; there is tinfoil; there is written: Le ciel profond, etc. There are also words like that,'—indicating with her finger the form of the foreign words." On November 29th, Dr. Grasset laid before the Montpellier Academy of Sciences the letter closed as he had sent it to Narbonne. The members were thus assured that it remained intact. M. Babinski suggests the possibility that purely physical phenomena may exist enabling closed letters to be read, and that the x rays may perhaps help to arrive at the solution. M. Babinski intends to go on with some researches commenced some time ago and discontinued.

M. Dubar, of Lille, at a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine, showed a patient on whom he had made a bone graft six years and a half ago, under the following circumstances: The girl's right wrist was the seat of tuberculous arthritic osteitis, accompanied by suppuration. He removed the first row of the carpal bones excepting the pisiform, also half of the second row. For grafting he used bony-cartilaginous fragments taken from the femur of a puppy of 8 years old. The patient recovered, and is able to use her wrist. The application of radiography shows the traces of bone grafts. M. Dubar considers that it is an open question whether the rays reveal the presence of the primitive grafts or of new bone formation. At the present time the patient follows a trade in which she has to use her right hand; she can do needlework, and knit.

The medical staff of the Paris hospitals is composed of 127 hospital physicians, 70 surgeons, and 10 accoucheurs. In addition to these there are 9 specialists attached to the lunatic asylums, and 10 physicians attached to the hospitals outside Paris and in the departments. Among the 127 hospital physicians there are 19 honorary physicians; the oldest is Dr. Moissenet, nearly 87 years of age. Dr. Potain, 72 years of age, is the oldest of the hospital physicians in active service. M. Vidal, 36 years of age, is the youngest. Among the 70 surgeons there are 5 honorary surgeons—M. Cruveilhier, M. Marc Sée, M. Péan, M. Labbé, and M. Guéniot.

The dispensary of the Rue Jean Lautier, between June, 1896, and October, 1897, distributed 9,000 litres of sterilised milk. This distribution has been effected by the generous aid of a Normandy sterilising milk company. Since 1896 77 children have benefited by the supply.

The *Journal de Médecine* has discovered that the Institut Pasteur is inscribed on the budget of the Beaux Arts for £2,000 to keep the building in order and to keep up the flower garden.

M. Cézilly proposes that a "Conseil Medical" should be created, composed of members of all the different medical societies. This defence committee would be at the service of all medical men in circumstances of difficulty.

M. Laquerre has forwarded a note to the Biological Society describing a human monster possessing a double spinal marrow.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID AT CLIFTON.

SIR,—The views propounded by Dr. W. J. Tivy at the last meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society with regard to an epidemic of enteric fever in Clifton are of so misleading a character as to justify some observations thereon.

There was, perhaps, some little ground for the statement that an epidemic of what was called influenza existed during October and November. There had been cases of an indefinite fever, of the nature of which there was some doubt, and hence they were called by the convenient term which has been so much abused. These cases became "puzzling" from